FOOL. Are you three usurers' men ?

ALL SERF. Ay, fool.

POOL. I think, no usurer but has a fool to his servant: My mistress is one, and I am her fool. When men come to borrow of your masters, they approach sadly, and go away merry; but they enter my mistress' house [5] merrily, and go away sadly: The reason of this ?

FAR. SERF. I could render one.

APEM. Do it then, that we may account thee a whoremaster, and a knave ; which notwithstanding^ thou shalt be no less esteemed.

*PAR. SERV** What is a whoremaster, fool ?

FOOL. A fool in good clothes, and something like thee. Tis a spirit: sometime, it appears like a lord ; sometime, like a lawyer; sometime, like a philosopher, with two stones more than his artificial one [6]: He is very often like a knight; and, generally in all shapes, that man goes up and down in, from fourscore to thirteen, this spirit walks in.

KJR. SERF. Thou art not altogether a fool.

FOOL. Nor thou altogether a wise man: as much foolery as I have, so much wit thou lackest.

APEM. That answer might have become Ape-mantus.

5 — my MISTRESS' house —•] Here again the old copy reads— master's. I have corrected it for the reason already assigned. The context puts the matter beyond a doubt. Mr. Theobald, I find, had silently made the same emendation; but in subsequent editions the corrupt reading of the old copy was again restored. MALONE.

6 — hi$_s$ artificial one :] Meaning the celebrated philosopher's stone, which was in those times much talked of. Sir Thomas Smith was one of those who lost considerable sums in seeking of it. JOHKSON.

Sir Richard Steele was one of the last eminent men who entertained hopes of being successful in this pursuit. His laboratory was at Poplar, a village near London, and is now converted into a garden house. STEEVENS.